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REMARKS

Applicants appreciate the thorough and detailed examination of the present application as evidenced by the Office Action dated April 6, 2005 (hereinafter, the "Office Action").

Applicants further appreciate the indication that Claims 37-40 and 44-48 are allowed, and Claims 8, 9, 11-13, 17-22, 24-35 and 51-56 present allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Claims 8, 11-13, 17-20, 22, 24-26, 32, 34, 35, 51, 55 and 56 have been amended to include the recitations of the base claim and appropriate intervening claims as suggested by the Examiner. Applicants have also amended Claims 1, 3-7, 54-59, 63 and 64 and have canceled Claims 9, 23, 27-31, 36, 41-43, 49, 50, 53, 60 and 61 without prejudice. Applicants have added new Claims 65 and 66. Support for these new claims can be found throughout the specification and claims as originally filed. For example, *see* present application, page 3, paragraph [0015] and original Claim 22.

Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is added by this Amendment and request entry thereof. Applicants further submit that the pending claims are patentable over the cited references for at least the reasons discussed herein.

I. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in View of Ober et al.

Claims 1-7, 10, 41-43, 57 and 58 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,290,396 to Ober et al. (hereinafter, "Ober et al."). *See* Office Action, page 2.

In an effort to expedite allowance of the claims, Applicants have canceled Claims 41-43. Applicants have amended Claims 1 and 57 to include a recitation directed to silane. Support for this amendment can be found throughout the specification as originally filed. For example, *see* specification, page 3, paragraph [0015] and page 8, paragraph [0046].

As understood by one of ordinary skill in the art, silanes do not include compounds including oxygen. Accordingly, the amendment to Claims 1 and 57 particularly point out an aspect of the invention directed to the decreased amount of oxygen present in some embodiments of the resist compositions (Claim 1) or methods of reactive ion etching a resist composition (Claim 57) of the present invention.

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Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 1 and 57 are not anticipated by Ober et al.

For at the least the foregoing, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 1-7, 10, 57 and 58 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Ober et al. be withdrawn.

II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) in View of Felter et al.

Claims 23, 36, 49 and 50 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,989,776 to Felter et al. (hereinafter, "Felter et al."). See Office Action, page 3. In an effort to expedite allowance of the claims, Applicants have canceled Claims 23, 36, 49 and 50, thereby obviating the rejection of these claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 23, 36, 49 and 50 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Felter et al. be withdrawn.

III. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in View of Ober et al.

Claims 14-16 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ober et al. See Office Action, page 3.

As noted above, Claim 1 has been amended to include a recitation directed to silane and thus, particularly points out an aspect of the invention directed to the decreased amount of oxygen present in some embodiments of the resist compositions of the present invention. Claims 14-16 depend directly or indirectly from Claim 1. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request that the rejection of Claims 14-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) in view of Ober et al. be withdrawn.

IV. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) in View of Felter et al. and Liu

Claims 57-64 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Felter et al. in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,304,453 to Lin (hereinafter, "Lin"). See Office Action, page 4. Applicants respectfully disagree.

To establish a prima facie case of obviousness, the prior art reference or references when combined must teach or suggest *all* the recitations of the claims, and

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there must be some suggestion or motivation, either in the references themselves or in the knowledge generally available to one of ordinary skill in the art, to modify the reference or to combine reference teachings. M.P.E.P. §2143. The mere fact that references can be combined or modified does not render the resultant combination obvious unless the prior art also suggests the desirability of the combination. M.P.E.P. §2143.01, citing *In re Mills*, 916 F.2d 680, 16 U.S.P.Q.2d 1430 (Fed. Cir. 1990).

As noted above, Applicants have amended Claim 57 to include a recitation directed to silane and thus, particularly points out an aspect of the invention directed to the decreased amount of oxygen involved in some embodiments of the present invention directed to methods of reactive ion etching. In contrast, Felter et al. is directed to a photoresist composition for extreme ultraviolet radiation of boron carbide polymers, hydrochlorocarbons and mixtures thereof. *See* Felter et al., Abstract. Liu fails to supply the missing recitations to enable one of ordinary skill in the art to arrive at methods of reactive ion etching as recited in Claim 57.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicants respectfully request that Claims 57-64 are not obvious in view of Felter et al. and Lin, and request that the rejection of these claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) be withdrawn.

V. Information Disclosure Statement

On August 19, 2004, Applicants submitted an Information Disclosure Statement including a list of references cited on Form PTO-1449. Applicants respectfully request that an initialed and signed copy be returned to the Applicants.

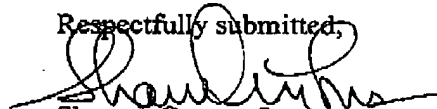
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants respectfully request that all outstanding rejections to the claims be withdrawn and that a Notice of Allowance be issued in due course. The Examiner is invited and encouraged to contact the undersigned directly if such contact will expedite the prosecution of the

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pending claims to issue. In any event, any questions that the Examiner may have should be directed to the undersigned, who may be reached at (919) 854-1400.

Respectfully submitted,

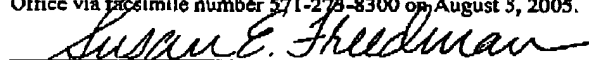


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CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
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I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office via facsimile number 571-278-8300 on August 5, 2005.



Susan E. Freedman
Date of Signature: August 5, 2005